Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4726
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USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

UNCLAS ATHENS 1635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MARR, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK PRESS REPORTS FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE DETAILS

REF: ATHENS 1391 (151558Z FEB 78)

1. LEFTIST, OPPOSITION TA NEA REPORTED AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 23 THAT ADMINISTRATION'S FY-79 AID PROPOSAL CONTAINED NO GRANT AID FOR GREECE OR TURKEY. DRAWING ON AN AP WASHINGTON STORY, A CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE WAS QUOTED AS CALLING THIS OMISSION A "SIGNAL TO CARAMANLIS...A KIND OF PRESSURE" TO WHICH THE SOURCE THOUGHT THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT YIELD.

2. SISTER OPPOSITION TO VIMA ELABORATED ON THE SAME STORY FEBRUARY 24 ASSERTING THAT THE GRANT AID DELETION WAS AN "EXERCISE OF PRESSURE" TO GET THE DCA SIGNED AND APPROVED. WASHINGTON POST AND NEW YORK TIMES STORIES ON THE SUBJECT WERE SAID TO QUOTE CONGRESSIONAL AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES WHO SAW THE SAME PRESSURE TACTIC IN THE USG REQUEST TO REDUCE FMS UNCLASSIFIED

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CREDITS FOR GREECE FROM \$140 TO \$122 MILLION WHILE CONTINUING FMS CREDTIS FOR TURKEY AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN FY 78 OF \$175 MILLION.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST MENTION WE HAVE NOTED IN THE GREEK PRESS OF SPECIFIC PROPOSED FY-79 FMS LEVELS. OTHER PAPERS ALSO CARRY THE FIGURES TODAY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL

OR GOVERNMENTAL COMMENT. MILLS

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Message Attributes

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